

# State Hospital Ward Closures Overview

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Senate Ways and Means Committee  
February 13, 2001

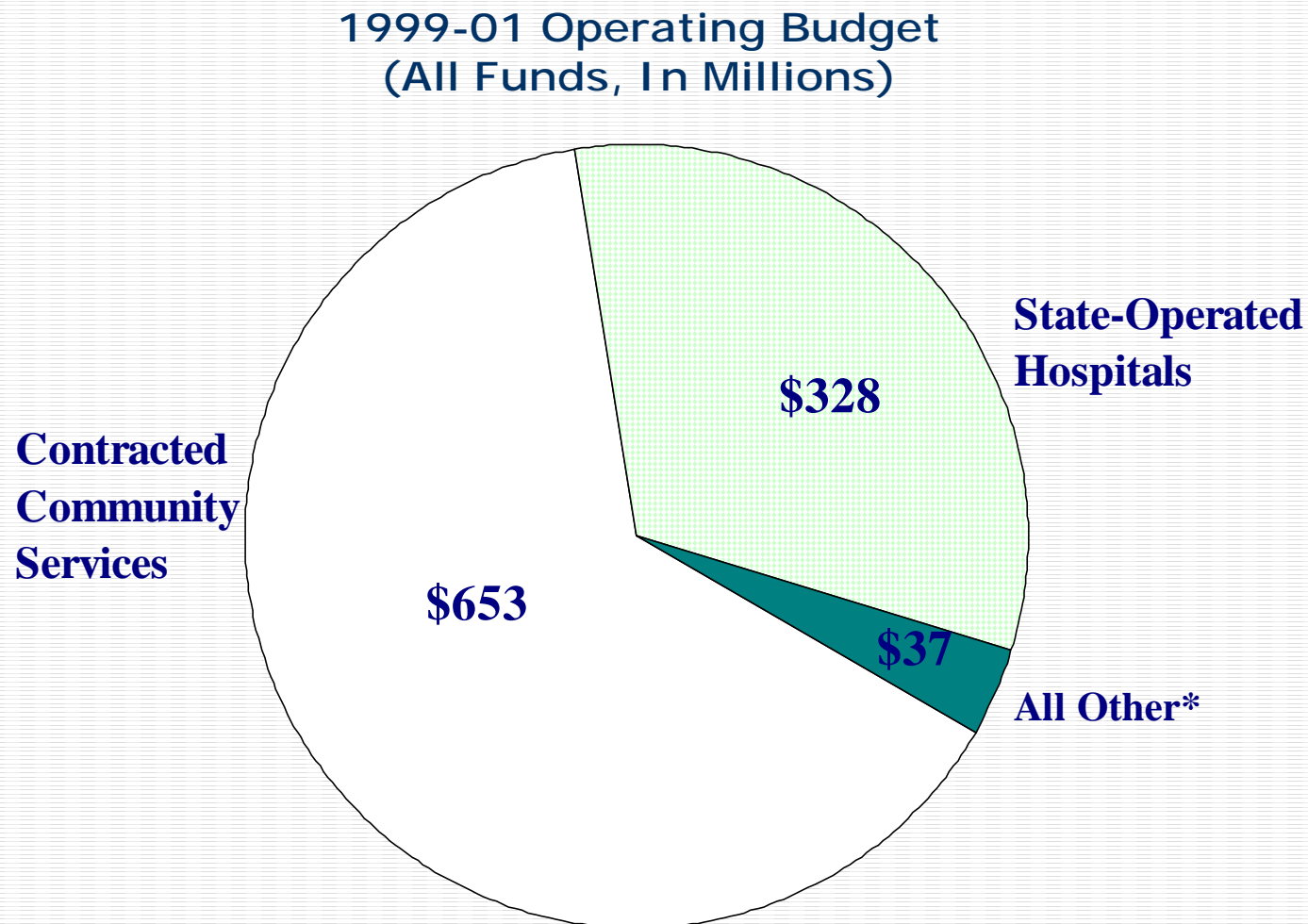
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# Work Session on the Governor's proposal to reduce the size of the state psychiatric hospitals

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- Committee staff overview of current mental health system, and budgetary aspects of the proposal.
- DSHS presentation on the specifics of the proposal: who, why, how, when, where?
- Feedback from knowledgeable groups: community mental health system; hospital staff; advocates for people with mental illness.

# The state-funded mental health system has two primary components



\*includes Special Commitment Center, special projects, and central administration.

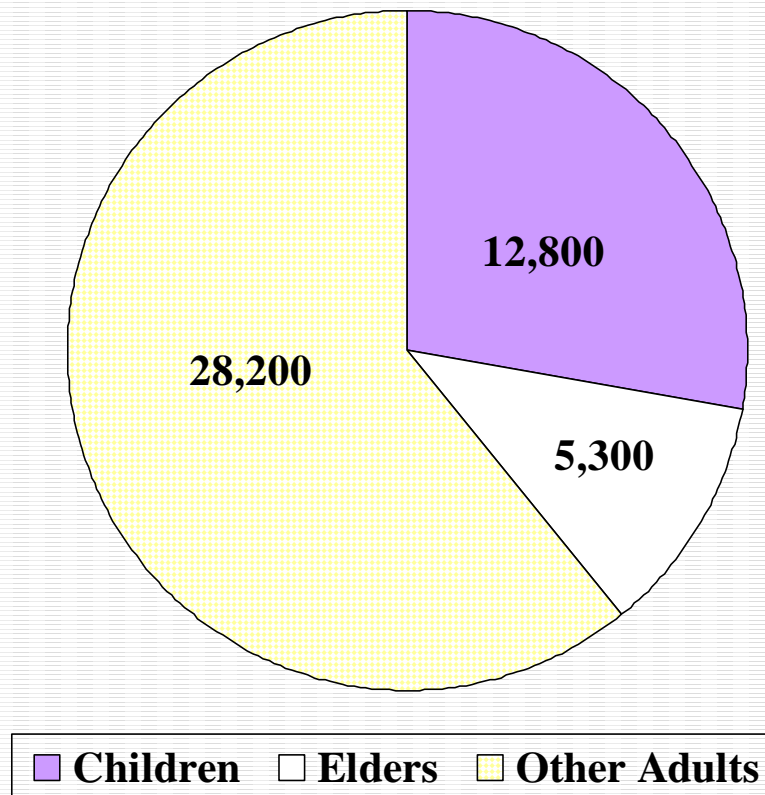
# Regional Support Networks are the prime contractors for community mental health services

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39 counties organized into 14 RSN's are responsible for:

- Crisis response services.
- Hospital admissions, discharge coordination, and follow-up care.
- Mental health services for 800,000 Medicaid recipients (\$110 million/year for drugs paid directly by DSHS).
- Services for other chronically mentally ill and seriously disturbed persons, to the extent funds are available.
- Service coordination with criminal justice, substance abuse, long-term care, developmental disabilities, children's services, health care and public school systems.

# About 46,000 people per month receive state-supported community mental health services



- About 70% are Medicaid enrollees.
- Other 30% probably on GAU; low-income uninsured; homeless & not engaged with any system; and undocumented persons.
- 23% prioritized as acutely mentally ill, 36% as chronically mentally ill.

# Washington has two state-operated psychiatric hospitals

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- ✓ Eastern State Hospital in Medical Lake (near Spokane)

310 patients.

700 FTE employees.

\$40 million annual budget (\$17 million state, balance federal Medicaid, Medicare, & insurance).

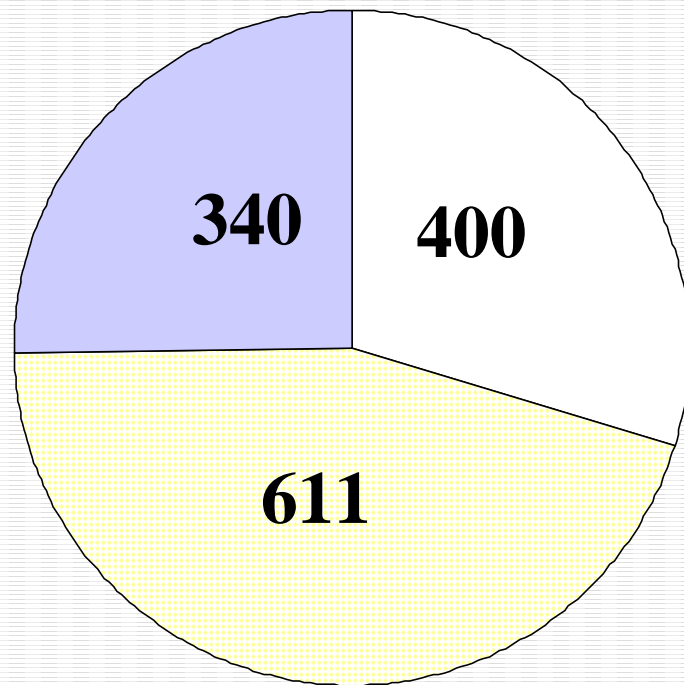
- ✓ Western State Hospital in Lakewood (near Tacoma)

1,000 patients.

2,000 FTE Employees.

\$116 million annual budget (\$57 million state).

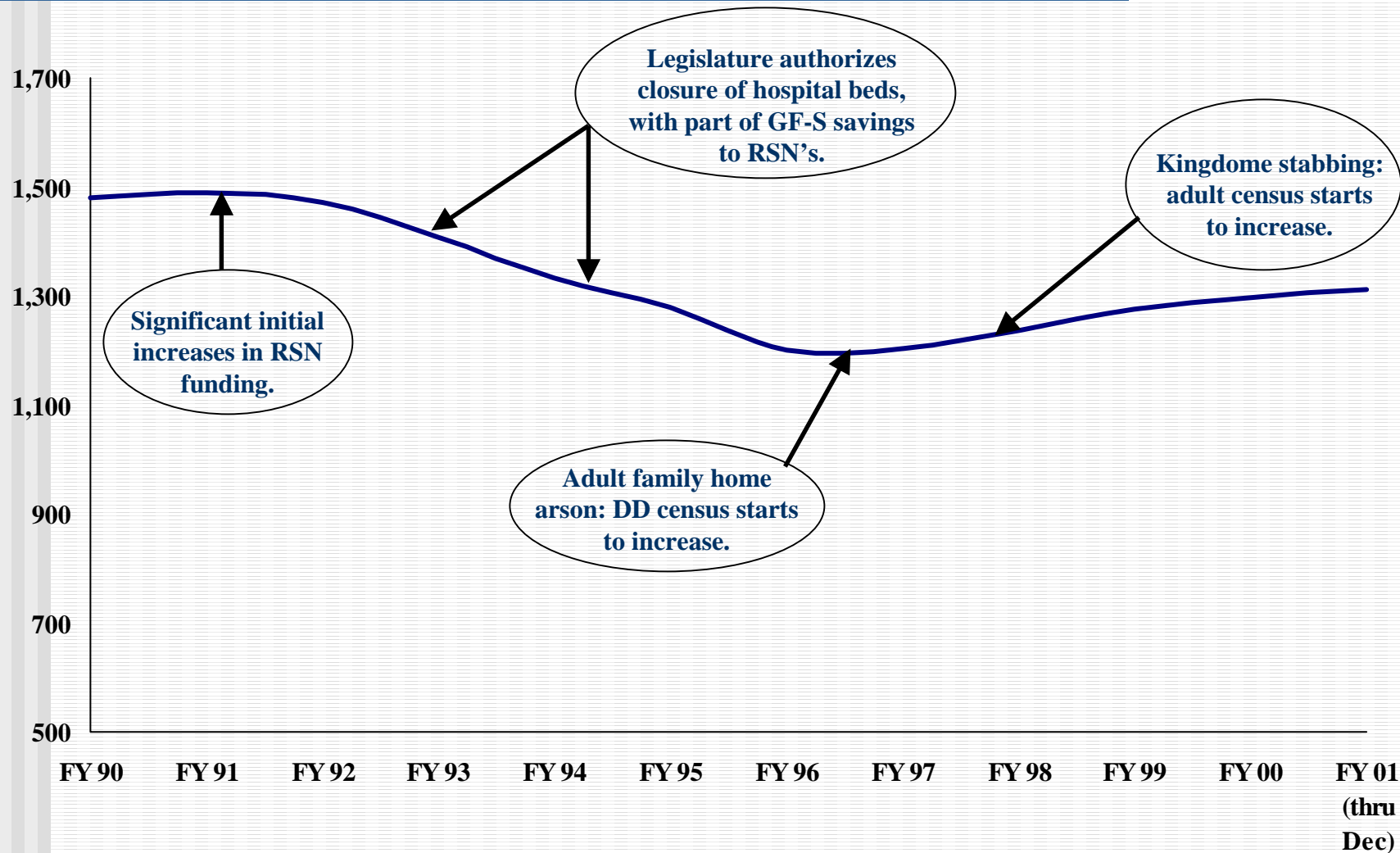
# The state hospitals serve persons who have been judicially committed into DSHS's care



- ☐ Geriatric Units ("GMU")
- ☐ Adult Units ("APU" and "PALS")
- ☐ Legal Offenders ("Forensic")

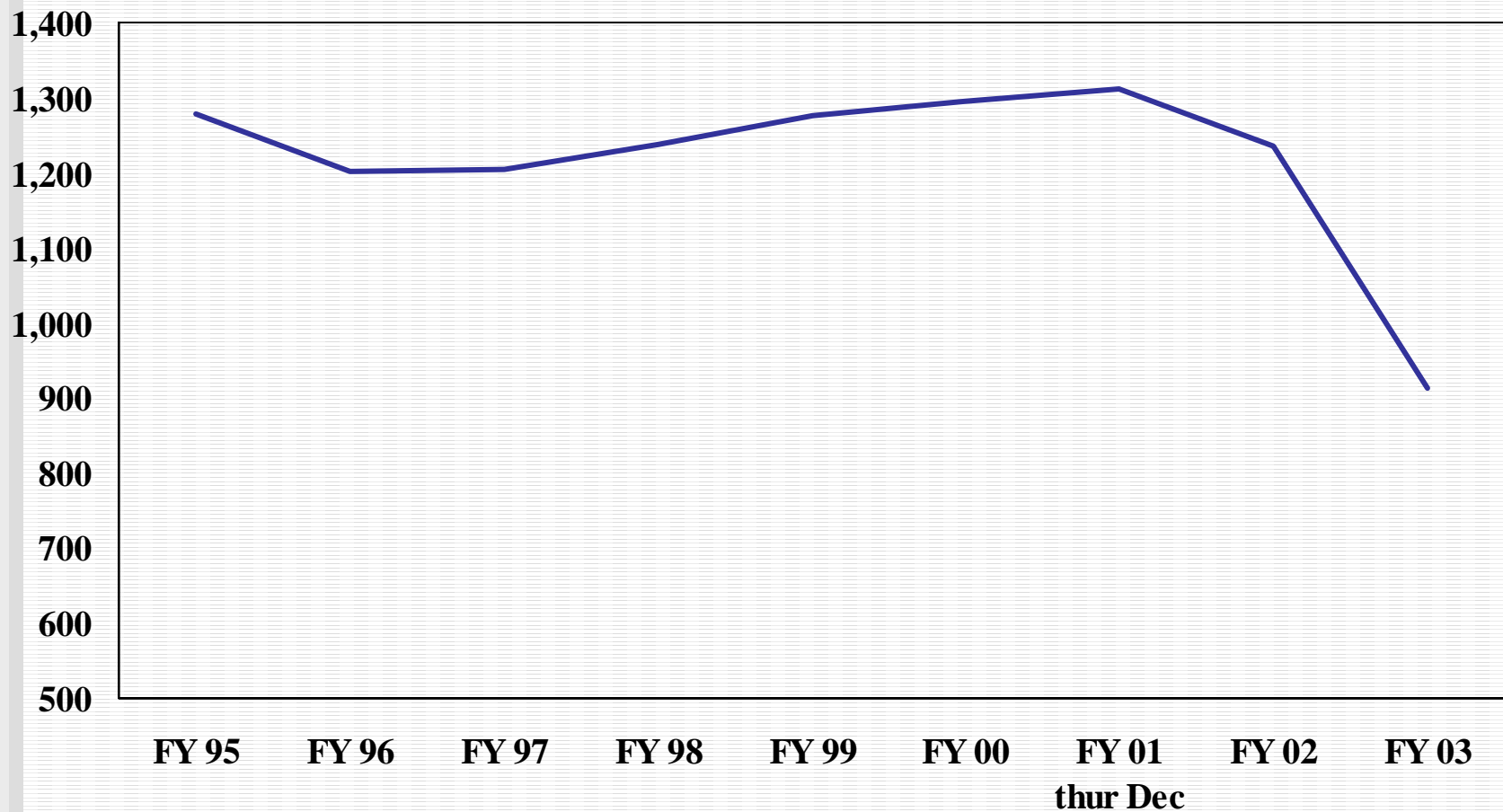
- 97% of geriatric and adult unit residents have been civilly-committed to DSHS care as a danger to themselves or others.
- RSN's pay part of the cost if geriatric and adult census exceeds 1,011.
- Forensic units evaluate competency for trial, & provide ongoing treatment for felony offenders judged incompetent to stand trial or not guilty by reason of insanity.
- Forensic capacity not reduced under the Governor's proposal.

The average number of persons served in the state hospitals has decreased by about 170 (12%) over the past decade.

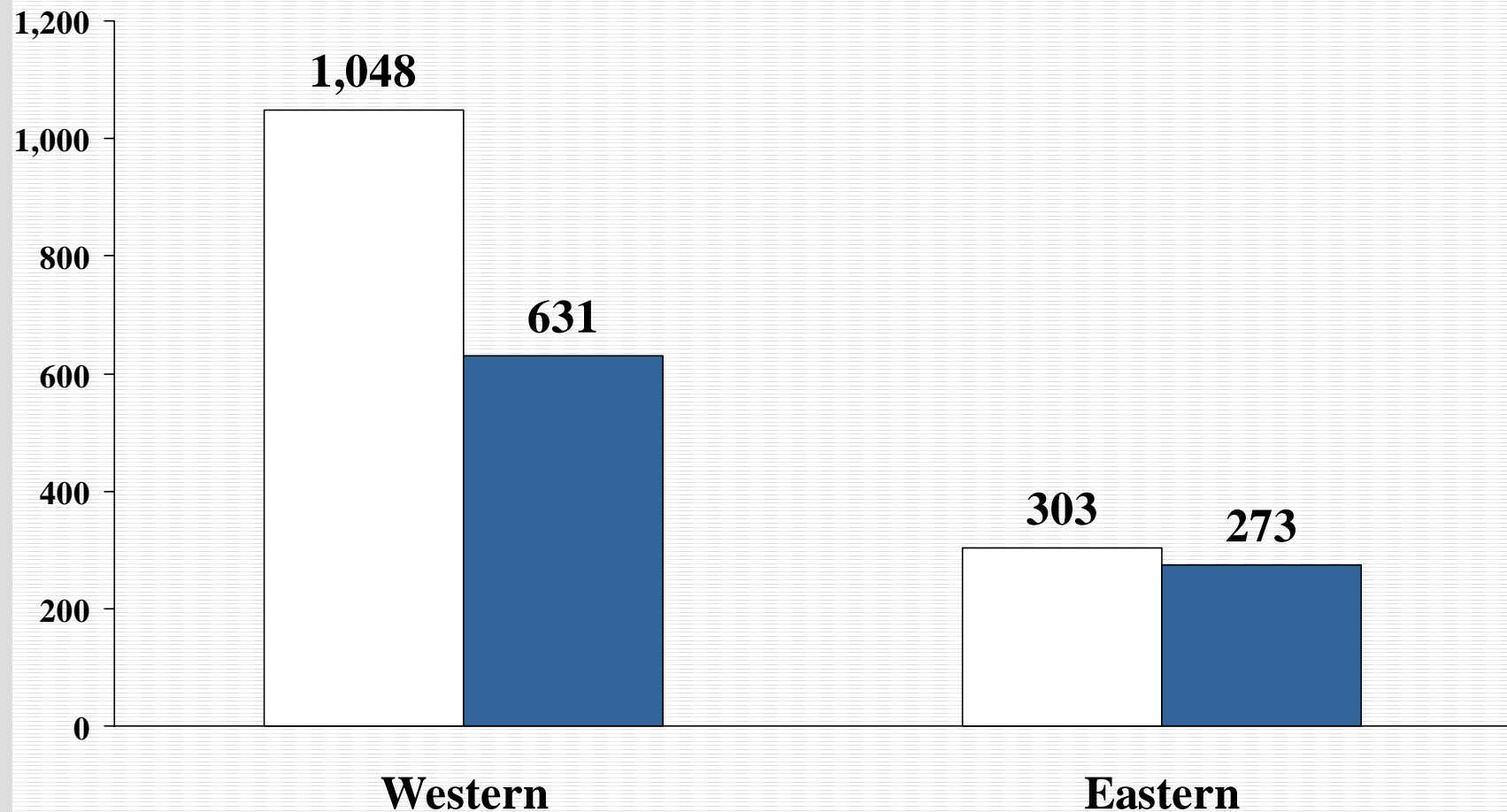




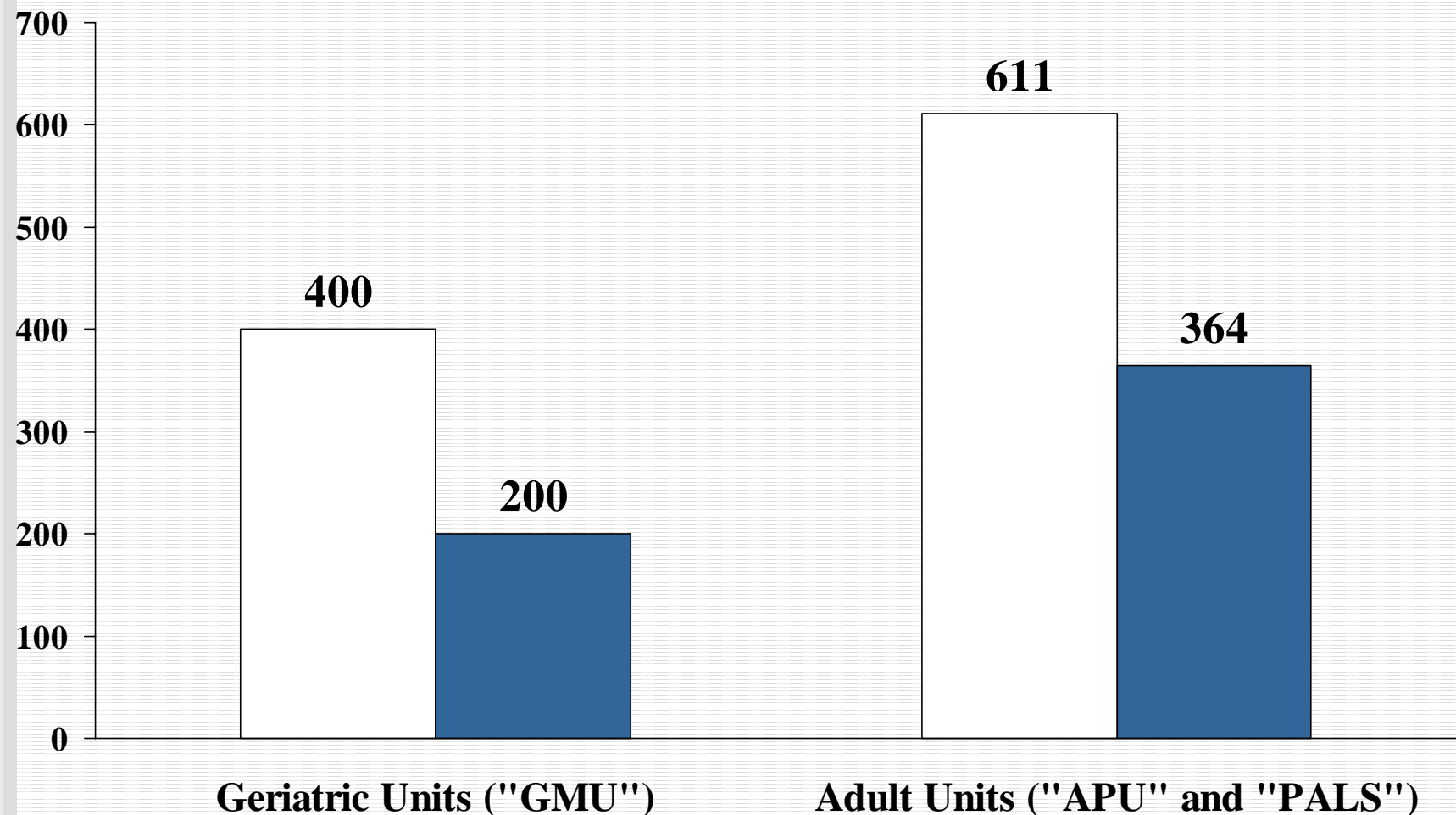
# The Governor's budget proposes reducing the state hospital population by 447 during the first 15 months of next biennium



**The Western State Hospital population would be reduced by 40%, and the Eastern State Hospital population by 10%, by October 2002**



**The number of beds available for civil commitments would be reduced by about 45%**



New community services would replace the hospital beds, for a projected savings of \$15 million next biennium

<i>Dollars in Millions</i>		
<b><u>Funding for New Community Services</u></b>	<b><u>State</u></b>	<b><u>Total</u></b>
Aging & Adult Services	\$7.8	\$15.6
Alcohol and Substance Abuse	\$6.1	\$6.4
New RSN Services	<u>\$3.5</u>	<u>\$3.9</u>
	\$17.4	\$25.9
 <b><u>Reduction in Hospital Expenditures</u></b>	 (\$32.6)	 (\$40.9)
 <b><u>Net Anticipated Savings</u></b>	 (\$15.3)	 (\$15.0)